Politics in France
Prof. William M. Chandler
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M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50
Zoom ID 995 2874 0982

Prof. Chandler Office Hours:
Fridays: 11:00am – 12:00pm
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Course TA: Tenzin Chomphel
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TA Office Hours:
Thursdays: 10:00am 11:00am

General:
This course examines the development and functioning of the modern French political system with particular focus on the Fifth Republic. Our analysis focuses on critical turning points in the modernization of France, constitutional institutions, ideological traditions, party system, elections and current policy challenges. Issues of European integration also constitute critical focal points for our understanding of modern French politics.

Zoom recordings of all lectures as well as slide decks, additional reading materials, and course announcements will be posted to the course Canvas site.

Course Grading
Grades will be calculated on the basis of a Mid-Term and Final Exam:

Mid-Term Exam: (50%)
Available via Canvas at 9:00am, Friday, February 5, 2021
DUE: 9:00am, Monday, February 8, 2021

Final Exam: (50%)
Available via Canvas at 10 am, March 12, 2021
DUE: 11:00am, Friday, 19 March, 2021
**Required Readings:**

Available online at UCSD Bookstore and Redshelf (via Canvas)
William Chandler, ed, *French Politics in the Macron Era*

Additional Readings to be provided via Canvas

**Schedule of Topics and Reading**

**Module One:**

*Introduction to the Fifth Republic: Presidential Power from de Gaulle to Macron*
  - De Gaulle’s Legacy
  - Hybrid Model: Presidential + Parliamentary
  - Dual Executive
  - Role of Parliament
  - Comparisons with US and UK

**Reading:**
  - Cole, Chapters 2-4

120C Reader


**Module Two:**

*Historic Turning Points shaping Modern French Politics:*
  - From Absolutism to Revolution to Parliamentary Democracy and Presidentialism
  - Wars and Regime Change
  - Why Five Republics?

**Reading:**
  - Cole, Chapter 1

120C Reader
  - Charles Sowerwine, Chapter 21,
Module Three:
The French Governing Process / Elite Recruitment
   Relationship between President and Prime Minister?
   Career Paths to the Top / les Grandes Écoles
   Prefects and Unitary State

Reading:
   Cole, Chapters 4 -6,

120C Reader
   Elgie and Machin, "France: The Limits of Prime-Ministerial Govt in a Semi-Presidential System".

Module Four:
Ideological Divisions, Party Politics and Elections
   France’s Party System and its “political families”
   Recent Elections and Voting trends,
   Alternative Electoral Laws
   European Elections,

Reading:
   Cole, Chapters 8 & 9

MID TERM:
   Based on lectures and readings, Modules 1 through 4
   Available 9:00am Friday, Feb 5, 2021
   DUE no later than 9:00 am Monday, February 8, 2021 (file upload via Canvas)

Module Five:
Macron’s Governing Challenges: Economic Issues, Protest Politics
   Social and economic change
   Employment (Labor Market) and Pensions Reform.
   Mobilization and Protest
   The 2018 “Yellow Vests” Phenomenon

Reading:
   Cole, Chapters 11 & 12
120C Reader
Boxwell, James, “France struggles to stem industrial decline” Financial Times, 2012. CP

Module Six:
France in Europe, Brexit
Foreign Policy, from de Gaulle to Macron.
Franco-German Relations,
EU and Brexit,

Reading:
Cole, Chapter 13,

120C Reader
Brunnermeier et al., “Pondering Franco-German Relations anew”,
Rubin, Alissa and Adam Nossiter, “A Cri de Coeur on Nationalism may go unheeded”,
NYT, Nov 9, 2018

Module Seven:
France in World Affairs / Legacy of Colonialism
France in America?
Overseas Territories and Departments
France in Africa

Reading:
To be assigned.

Module Eight:
Immigration and Social Integration
Identity, Citizens and the State,
Terrorism in France (2015 – 2020)

Reading:
Cole, Chapter 12
120C Reader


W. Chandler, “French Law and Order and Jihadist Terrorism Crises”, 2020,

Module Nine:

*The Fifth Republic in Perspective / What have we learned?*

Readings: Cole, Chapter 14.

FINAL EXAM:

Based on lectures and readings, Modules 1 through 8
Available 10:00am Friday, March 12, 2021
DUE no later than 11:00 am, Friday, March 19, 2021 (File upload via Canvas)

A Note About Academic Integrity at UC San Diego:

In accordance with recommended practice, both the Midterm and Final Exam will be run through *Turn It In* (turnitin.com). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Always cite work that is not your own. Direct quotes and paraphrases require full citations.* When in doubt, please ask!

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